



"JUSTUM, ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM, NON CIVIUM ARDOR PRAVA JUVENTIUM, NON VULTUS INSTANTIS TYRANNI MENTE QUATIT SOLIDA."

VOLUME III.

PICTOU, N. S. WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 1837.

NUMBER XXII.

THE BEE

IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,
BY JAMES DAWSON,

And delivered in Town at the low price of 12s. 6d. per annum, if paid in advance, but 15s. if paid at the end of the year;—payments made within three months after receiving the first Paper considered in advance, whenever Papers have to be transmitted through the Post Office, 2s. 6d. additional will be charged for postage.

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For Advertising by the Year, if not exceeding a square, 35s. to Subscribers, 45s. to Non-Subscribers,—if more space than a square be occupied, the surplus will be charged in proportion.

PICTOU PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WEEKLY.

APPLES, per bushel	2s 6d	Hay	per ton	40s
Boards, pine, 31	5s 6d	Herrings, No. 1,		30s
" hemlock - 30s a 40s		Blackarel,	none	
Beef, pr lb	3d a 4d	Mutton	per lb	3d a 4d
Butter, -	10d a 1s	Oatmeal	pr cwt	18s a 20s
Cheese, -	5d a 7d	Oats	pr bush	2s 6d
Coals, at Mines, pr chl	17s	Pork	pr bbl	80s a 85s
" at Loading Ground	17s	Potatoes -	1s 8d a 1s 6d	
" at end of rail road	17s	Salt	pr hhd	10s a 12s 6d
Coke		Salmon,		2s a 2s 6d
Codfish pr Ql	12s a 16s	Shingles	pr m	7s a 10s
pr doz	6d a 7d	Tallow	pr lb	7d a 8d
Flour, n s	22s 6d	Turnips	pr bush	1s 3d
" American s r	none	Veal	-	none
		Wood	pr cord	12s

HALIFAX PRICES.

Alewives	20s	Herrings, No 1	20s
Boards, pine, 31	5s 6d	" "	2
Beef, Quebec prime,	50s	Blackarel, No 1	none
" Nova Scotia	45s	" "	2
Codfish, merch'ble	16s	" "	3
Coals, Pictou,	22s 6d	Molasses	per gal
" Sydney,	29s	Pork, Irish	none
Cod oil per gal	2s 6d	" Canada prime	90s
Coffee	none	" Nova Scotia	85s
Corn, Indian	5s 9d	Potatoes	2s 6d
Flour Am sup	50s	Sugar,	35s a 37s 6d
" Fine	45s	Salmon	No 1
" Canada, fine	46s	" "	2
" Nova Scotia	none	Salt	8s a 10s

MISS THRESHER

INFORMS the public, that she intends opening her SCHOOL on the 17th instant,

FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUNG LADIES

in the following different BRANCHES,—viz:
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, plain and ornamental Needle-Work, Drawing, Painting, crayon, water, and transparent Painting.

October 11.

m-w

SNUFF.

For sale at the *Miamae Tobacco Manufactory*, No. 74, BEDFORD ROW,

A large quantity of SNUFF, of different kinds.

FIG TOBACCO AND CIGARS.

M. B. A large discount to wholesale purchasers of Snuff.

Halifax, August 14, 1837.

From "Sketches of New South Wales."

CUSTOMS OF THE NATIVES,

THEIR FOOD—METHOD OF CLIMBING—TAKING WILD ANIMALS—BEES AND HONEY.

BEING anxious to become acquainted with their methods of hunting and procuring food, as well as to witness their dexterity in the use of their weapons, I accompanied them to their gunyas, and taking a gun and a couple of dogs we again set out for a morning's sport.

It may here be observed as a peculiar characteristic of the blacks, that whenever they wander about from one place to another, their eyes are continually on the look out, sometimes directed to the ground, then to the tops of the trees, and again to the trunks of them, so that, as they walk they are constantly stopping to examine this, that, or the other. We had not left the tents many minutes, when I perceived one of them cutting away with his tomahawk into the bark of a tree, from which he soon extracted about seven or eight grubs, thick, fat, yellow insects, which he put into his mouth, head, legs, and all, one after another, and pronounced them, tapping his chest, *Capital!*

Another black was seen pointing with his finger to the fresh marks of an opossum that had ascended the tree in the night to take shelter in a hole during the day, upon which he exclaimed, as he looked upwards, as much of English as he was master of, *Me megallits; (Me see-tan); Me-pi-him cobbera direckaly, (Me strike him on the head directly);* and he forthwith commenced climbing the tree.

Their method of climbing trees is very singular, and the facility, fearlessness, and dexterity with which they do so, are well worthy of being noticed. They have two ways of ascending, the one with the use of the tomahawk, and the other by the assistance of the vine, which is used as a rope or hoop. The former method is most generally practiced, and appears to the spectator to be attended with danger. The black, having eyed well the inclination of the tree, commences by cutting a notch just large enough to admit his great toe. The height of this notch from the ground is about two feet and a half, although it generally depends upon the individual, for it is a remarkable fact that two blacks will not ascend by each other's notches or steps, even though the tree has been climbed by several of them. He then cuts another notch from two to three feet higher for his left foot; and when this is done, he fixes his tomahawk as high as he can reach into the tree, and holding by it, ascends the two first notches. His left great toe being in the second cut, he stands supporting his whole weight upon it, with his left arm round the tree, and then makes two more notches as before. In this manner I have seen them get up trees of immense bulk, and rising from forty to fifty feet without a branch, with as much confidence and celerity as a European mounts a ladder.

The other mode, with the vine, is also extraordinary, and can, of course, only be practised by the natives of the country where the vine is prevalent. This method, as described to me, is as follows:—The black, having cut a rope of vine, of proper length and strength, according to the magnitude of the tree, first encircles the trunk with it, and fastens the two ends

in a knot. He then places himself within the hoop of the vine, and raising it with both his hands, leans back with all his power, as if to prove the strength of the vine, as well as the certainty of the knot. Having taken these precautions, he makes a spring, raising at the same time, the hoop higher than himself. In this inclined posture the body is wholly supported by the vine, and as he springs again, he raises himself with his feet and hands, and making similar jumps, he ascends with surprising velocity.

I had an opportunity of witnessing the actions and manoeuvres of a black in ascending a tree after an opossum by the former method, which were highly amusing. Having, by the assistance of his tomahawk, reached the hole where the animal was supposed to be, he made signs to those below, as he thrust the handle of the tomahawk into the hollow of the tree, that he was not deceived, and began cutting away with great earnestness; then, feeling again, he exclaimed, "Look out massa, me pi him directly." So indeed it happened, for the opossum, after another cut or two, darted out, and at that instant received a blow from the tomahawk which sent him to the ground dead. Several opossums were killed in a similar manner by others of the natives.

As we proceeded, I observed another digging away at the trunk of a rotten tree, from which he soon brought to light a nest of small ants of a brown color, which were completely covered with little white eggs of an oval shape. As soon as he had dug them out in a mass, the black procured a piece of bark, which he cut from an elbow of a gum-tree, and which, when removed, formed an oblong concave vessel, in which the nest of ants, with their eggs, were placed, and conveyed to their encampment. I enquired what they were going to do with them? They replied, "Budgerry patta," (Good food). Another black was soon observed watching very attentively the top branches of a tree,—I asked what he was looking at? "Me megallet budgerry honey," (I see good honey!) "You see," said he, pointing upwards to the place. I gazed upwards for some time, but could perceive nothing but the leaves and branches, and it was not until he had ascended the tree, and showed me the hole, that I discovered numerous little flies pouring in and out the hollow of a branch, which, after examining for a short time, he cut down. As soon as it fell I was curious to know where the honey was, as I could perceive nothing but thousands of little insects swarming out of the branch, (they much resembled our common fly, but were rather smaller). My curiosity, however, was soon satisfied, when the black commenced opening carefully, with his tomahawk, the hollowed limb, when, having split through nearly four feet, a complete honey-comb was exposed. The substance of the comb was of a coarse waxy material, and of a dark brown color. It was fashioned into innumerable apartments, or cells, which appeared to be similarly constructed, and designed to answer the same purpose as those in our common bee-hives.

These cells were filled with transparent amber-colored honey, which also, in taste and appearance, exactly resembled the honey of the common bee, and was equally sweet and delicious. These Australian bees (if I may so call them), are perfectly harmless—never armed with a sting, but are very small and black